

**Mr. Lewis:** I have a supplementary question that I wish to ask probably because I do not know enough about the industry.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Bell:** You will understand a lot more on Monday.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, I am very flattered to be applauded by my equals in the House.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**An hon. Member:** I didn't think there were any.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**An hon. Member:** You are admitting there are some?

**Mr. Lewis:** I do not know whether the minister knows the answer now but I should like to know why there is a difference between the reduction per gallon in eastern Canada and the reduction per gallon in western Canada? Why should that difference exist?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, I must confess I cannot answer that question now but I will investigate and see if I can give a lucid reply.

● (1430)

[Translation]

COMPLAINTS ABOUT VARIATION IN GASOLINE AND FUEL OIL PRICES—SUGGESTED INQUIRY

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the hon. member for Richmond wish to ask a supplementary question?

**Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

In view of the great number of complaints we are receiving concerning the enormous differences in prices which Canadian consumers must pay when purchasing gasoline and heating oil, which cause them to have serious doubts about the fairness of this practice by the petroleum industry, will the minister investigate this matter so that Canadian consumers may know where they stand and be advised concerning the oil crisis of this type?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, this is the result of an oil shortage. We would also want to be able to investigate such practices and if the hon. member can mention particular instances we shall be happy to hear him.

ALLEGED REFUSAL OF GOLDEN EAGLE CANADA LIMITED TO DELIVER FUEL OIL

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary to the hon. Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

He had promised the hon. member for Témiscamingue that he would look into cases in the lower St. Lawrence region. Can he tell the House what is the attitude of

### Oral Questions

Golden Eagle Canada Limited in this matter? Is he aware that the same thing is now happening in Lotbinière, that is Golden Eagle Canada Limited is refusing to supply to its branches the oil that they need to serve the consumers?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, I have been able to confirm the existence of the situation mentioned by the hon. member of Témiscamingue. The National Energy Board has investigated and arranged a meeting of the man concerned with Golden Eagle Canada Limited. During November, the quota of this man was increased, but I must say that in view of the present shortage of supplies, similar difficulties could occur in the future. If special cases occur, we can order investigations.

[English]

OIL—POSSIBILITY OF RENTING UNITED STATES TANK CARS FOR MOVEMENT—CONSULTATION WITH U.S. AUTHORITIES—ALBERTA REFINERY PRODUCTION

**Mr. William Skoreyko (Edmonton East):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources if he has consulted the United States railroads or the United States government with regard to the possibility of the rental of tank cars to move crude and refined products from Alberta to the Montreal market? If he has so consulted, what was the result of those consultations and, if not, is he prepared to consult with these people regarding rental and is he also prepared to put the Alberta refineries on 24-hour production?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, a survey of the transportation industry, which I have mentioned several times in the House, has been conducted by the Ministry of Transport. I would have to confirm with them whether or not they have had discussions with the United States lines in this regard. I will be glad to make that inquiry and respond to the hon. gentleman.

On the question of refinery speed-up I think this depends upon the location and whether the decision is to move crude oil into the Ontario and Montreal refineries or to move the product from western Canada. If the latter is the better solution, then we would propose that the companies should increase their throughput.

**Mr. Skoreyko:** Is the minister aware that if the three refineries in Alberta were put on 24-hour production they could not possibly store the final product and that the problem lies in the transportation area alone? I should like to know what the government is planning or what the minister's department is planning with regard to this matter so we can put the refineries to maximum capacity in order that eastern Canadians will not have to suffer this winter?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, with regard to the question of whether the particular product can be moved effectively by the transportation system, in effect we have a substantial transportation system, the Interprovincial pipeline, for moving crude oil to the refineries in the east. I think it is likely that any transportation proposal would be designated more specifically between the Sarnia end of the Interprovincial pipeline and the Mont-